



BY
FRANK MILLER
AND DAVID
MAZZUCHELLI

YEAR ONE PART 3

BATMAN

406
75¢
CAN. \$1.00
U.K. 40p
APR. 87

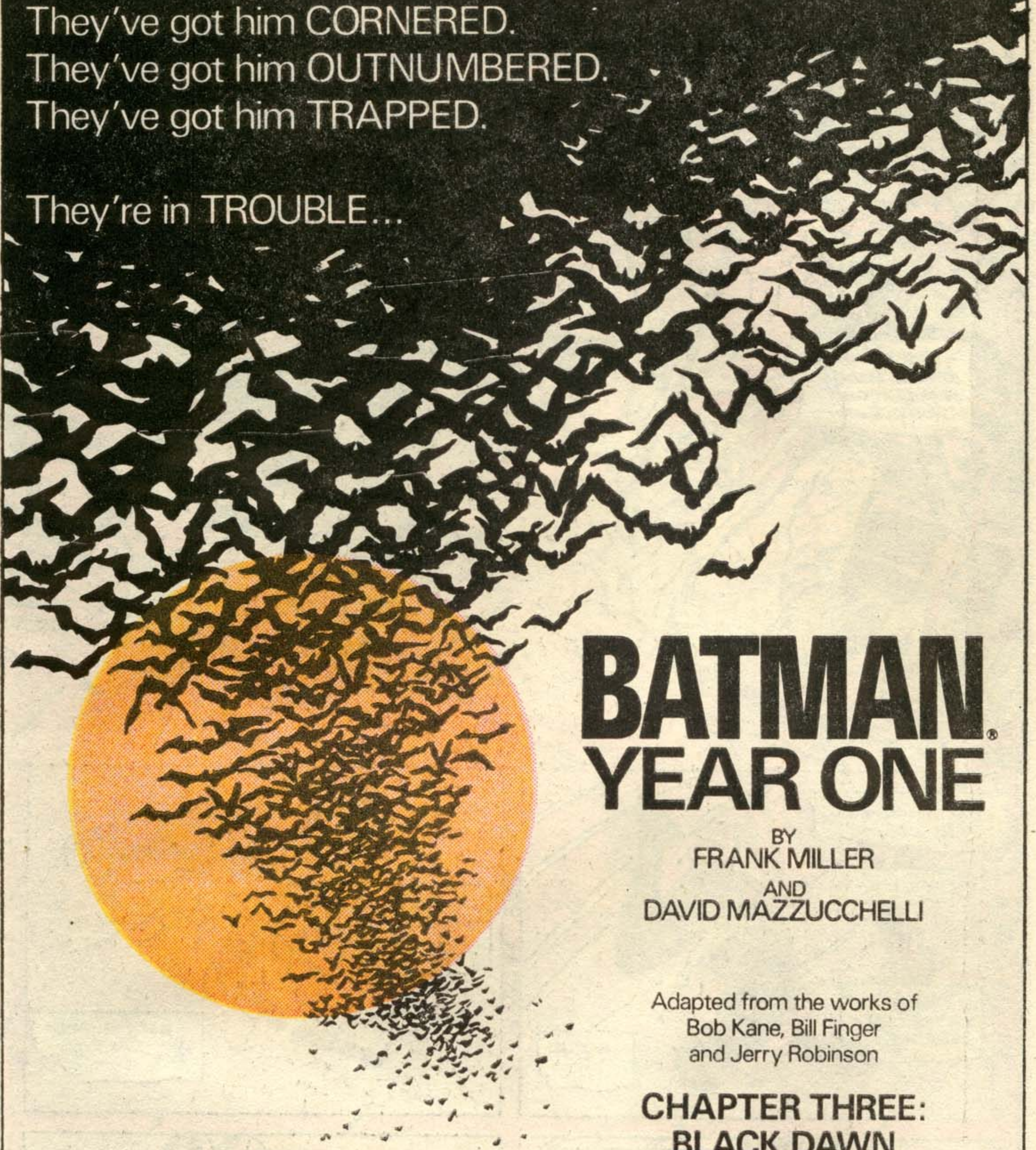


**THE
HISTORY
OF THE
DC
UNIVERSE**
*is must
reading*

M A Z Z U C C H E L L I

They've got him CORNERED.
They've got him OUTNUMBERED.
They've got him TRAPPED.

They're in TROUBLE...



BATMAN[®] YEAR ONE

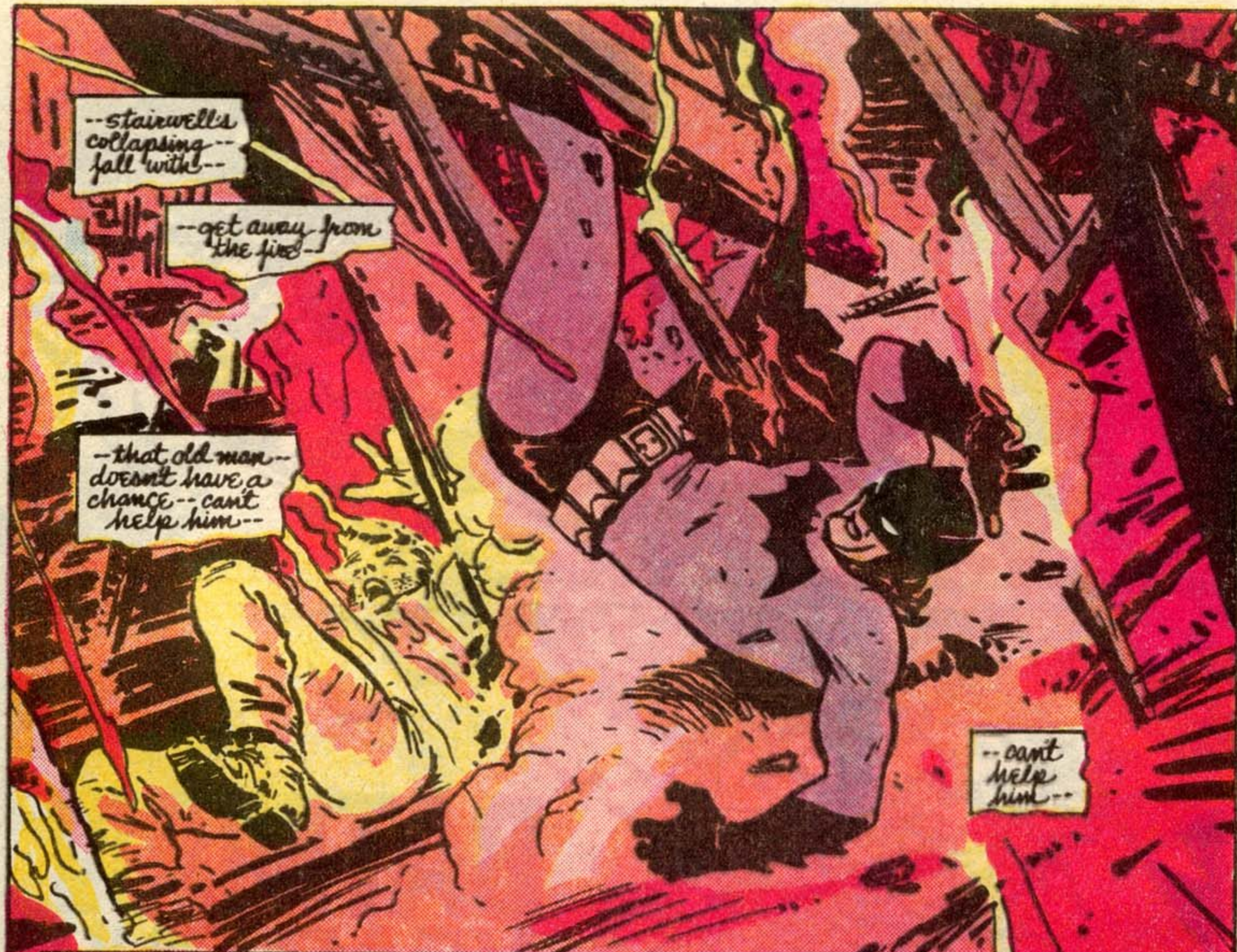
BY
FRANK MILLER
AND
DAVID MAZZUCHELLI

Adapted from the works of
Bob Kane, Bill Finger
and Jerry Robinson

CHAPTER THREE: BLACK DAWN

Richmond Lewis: Colorist
Todd Klein: Letterer
Denny O'Neil: Editor

Batman created by Bob Kane



--stairwell's
collapsing--
fall with--

--get away from
the fire--

--that old man--
doesn't have a
chance-- can't
help him--

--can't
help
him--

--screaming--can't
help him--

--oh no--

--thermite--
in my belt--
catching--

--get it
off--



--still have
weapons--in
cape--and
boots--

--need them--
if I survive
this--



--metal--

--trap door's
metal--

--might be enough--
to protect me--

--provided
that warning--
is a lie--



--lucky-- keep the
pick in my glove--

--lucky--

June 7

nffmgmm

GO WAY, OTTO.
YOU DON' EAT
FR 'N' HOUR.

MROWW

mmfgg

SIAMESE.
TOO NOISY.
SHOULD'VE LEFT
YOU AT THE
MARKET.

WHOLE CREW
NOW. GANGING UP.
IT'S MUTINY.

HOLLY.
WHAT THE HELL
TIME IS IT?

SELINA--
OUTSIDE--

RROWW
RROWW
RROWW

--EXPLOSIONS--

ggnf

CHRIST. NOT
EVEN LIGHT
OUT.

CHRIST.
FIVE IN THE
MORNING.

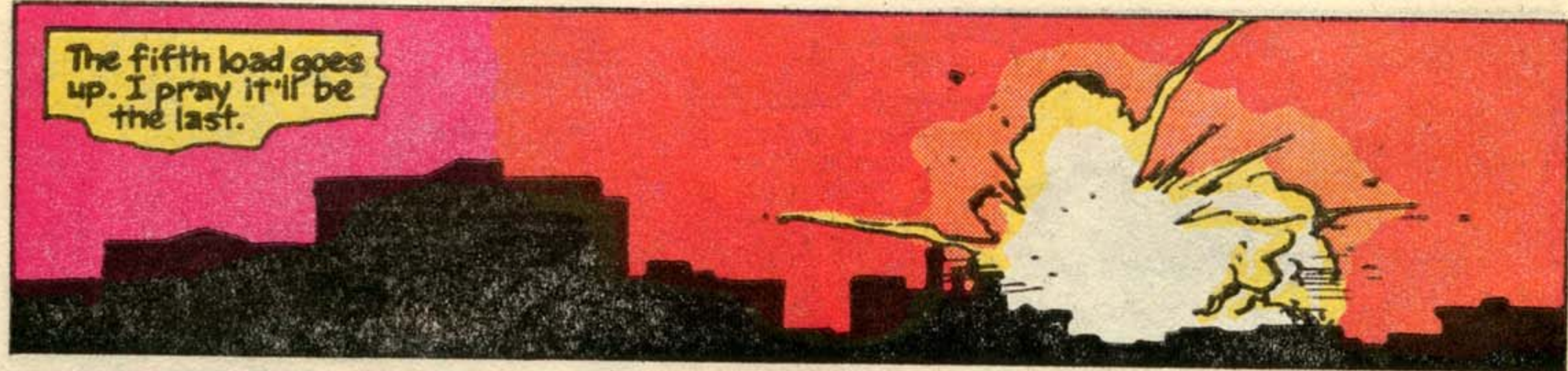
MMREEEOWW

RRRR

I'M BEING SERIOUS,
SELINA. THINGS ARE
BLOWING UP OVER BY
ROBINSON PARK.

MAYBE
BRANDEN'S CORNERED
A JAYWALKER.

TURN THE TV ON,
HOLLY. GOT TO HAVE
SOMETHING ON
THIS...



The fifth load goes up. I pray it'll be the last.



He will be soon, anyway. Branden and the collection of sociopaths he calls a SWAT team will see to that.

THIS IS UNIT THREE-- WE ARE APPROACHING TARGET AREA--

NO PRISONERS, MEN.

WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING, YOU--

Commissioner's orders. That's what Branden told me.

The Police Commissioner of Gotham City wants a corpse.



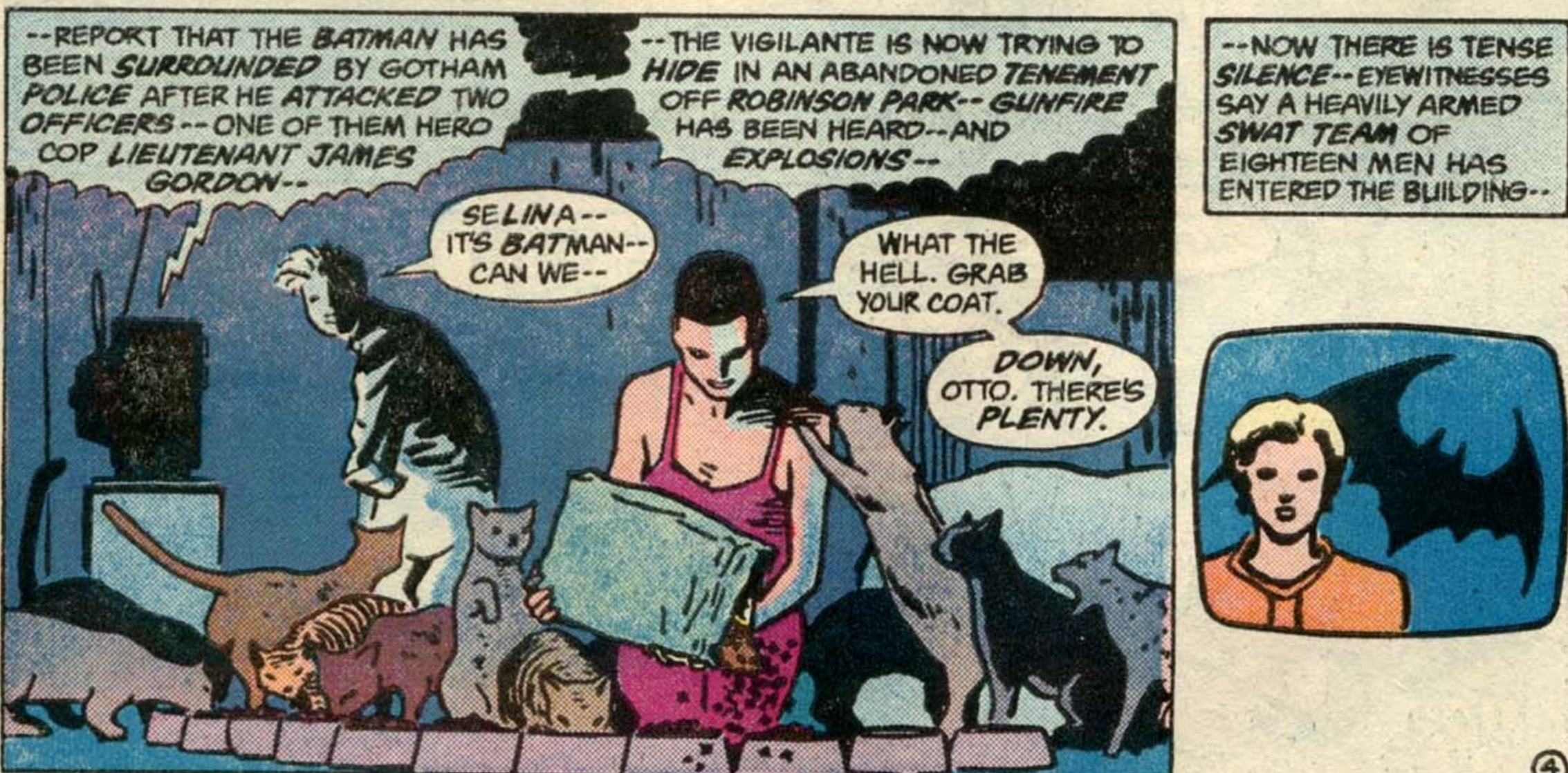
LIEUTENANT GORDON-- YOU SHOULDN'T BE STANDING JUST YET.

I'M ALL RIGHT...

Batman. He's made enemies of every criminal in Gotham-- and nearly every elected official.

They've only got him cornered because he got hurt saving an old woman's life. They--

--I mean we, of course...



--REPORT THAT THE BATMAN HAS BEEN SURROUNDED BY GOTHAM POLICE AFTER HE ATTACKED TWO OFFICERS-- ONE OF THEM HERO COP LIEUTENANT JAMES GORDON--

--THE VIGILANTE IS NOW TRYING TO HIDE IN AN ABANDONED TENEMENT OFF ROBINSON PARK-- GUNFIRE HAS BEEN HEARD--AND EXPLOSIONS--

--NOW THERE IS TENSE SILENCE-- EYEWITNESSES SAY A HEAVILY ARMED SWAT TEAM OF EIGHTEEN MEN HAS ENTERED THE BUILDING--

SELINA-- IT'S BATMAN-- CAN WE--

WHAT THE HELL. GRAB YOUR COAT.

DOWN, OTTO. THERE'S PLENTY.





-- WE HAVE ENTERED
THE LOBBY--NO SIGN
OF HIM YET--

UNIT ONE, REPORTING--
SECOND FLOOR'S A MESS--
NOTHING LIVING--

UNIT TWO, REPORTING--
FOUND A BODY UNDER THE
WATER HEATER-- JUST
AN OLD WINO--

KEEP IT
TIGHT--KEEP
IT TIGHT--

OVER
HERE--GIVE ME
SOME LIGHT--



JUST A
CHIMNEY--

-- NO--
DOWN THERE--
OVER THERE--
THE FLOOR--



-- IF HE GOT DOWN
THERE-- TRAPDOOR'S
METAL-- HE MIGHT'VE
SURVIVED--

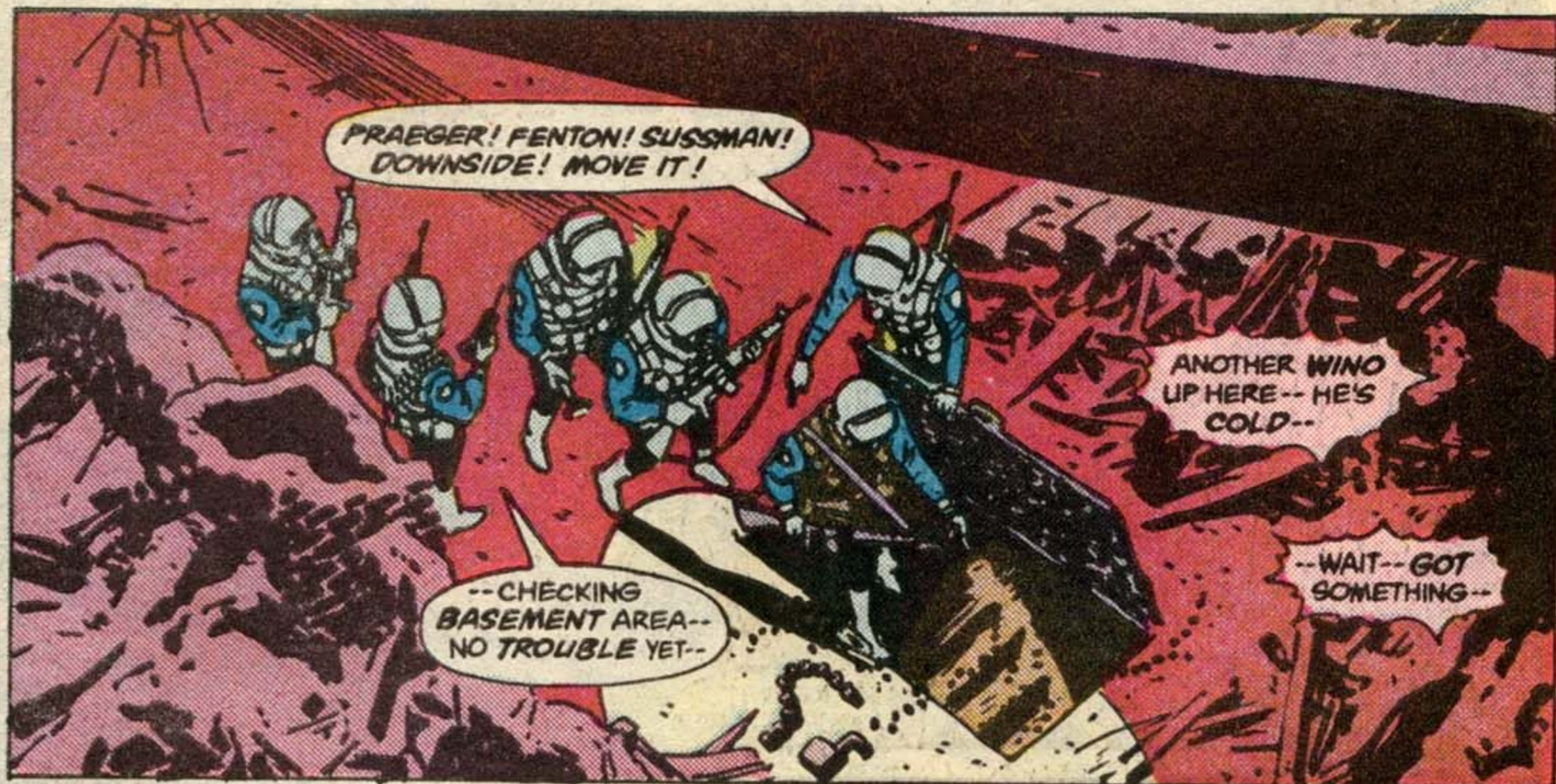
-- SO
PERFORATE IT,
SOLDIER--



UNITS ONE AND
TWO-- STAY WHERE
YOU ARE-- THIS IS
ONLY PRECAU-
TIONARY
FIRE--

IF HE'S DOWN
THERE-- HE
TRAPPED
HIMSELF--

BRAKABRAKAB

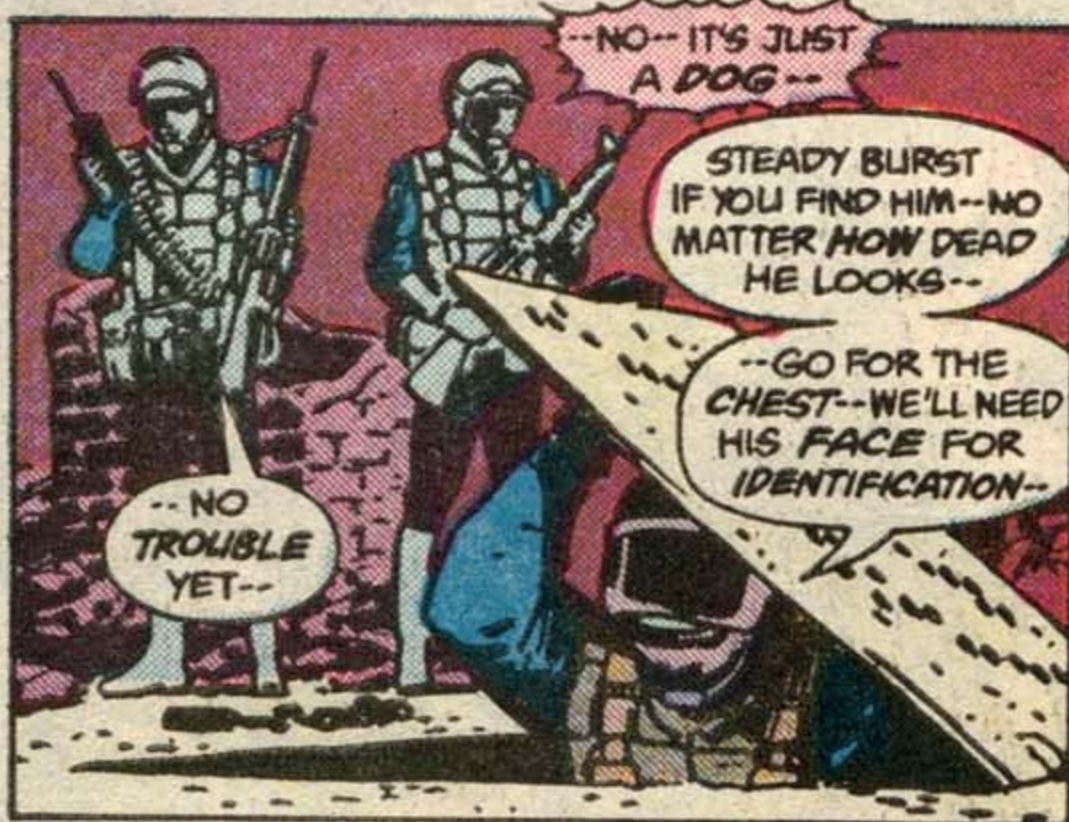


PRAEGER! FENTON! SUSSMAN!
DOWNSIDE! MOVE IT!

ANOTHER WINO
UP HERE-- HE'S
COLD--

--WAIT-- GOT
SOMETHING--

--CHECKING
BASEMENT AREA--
NO TROUBLE YET--

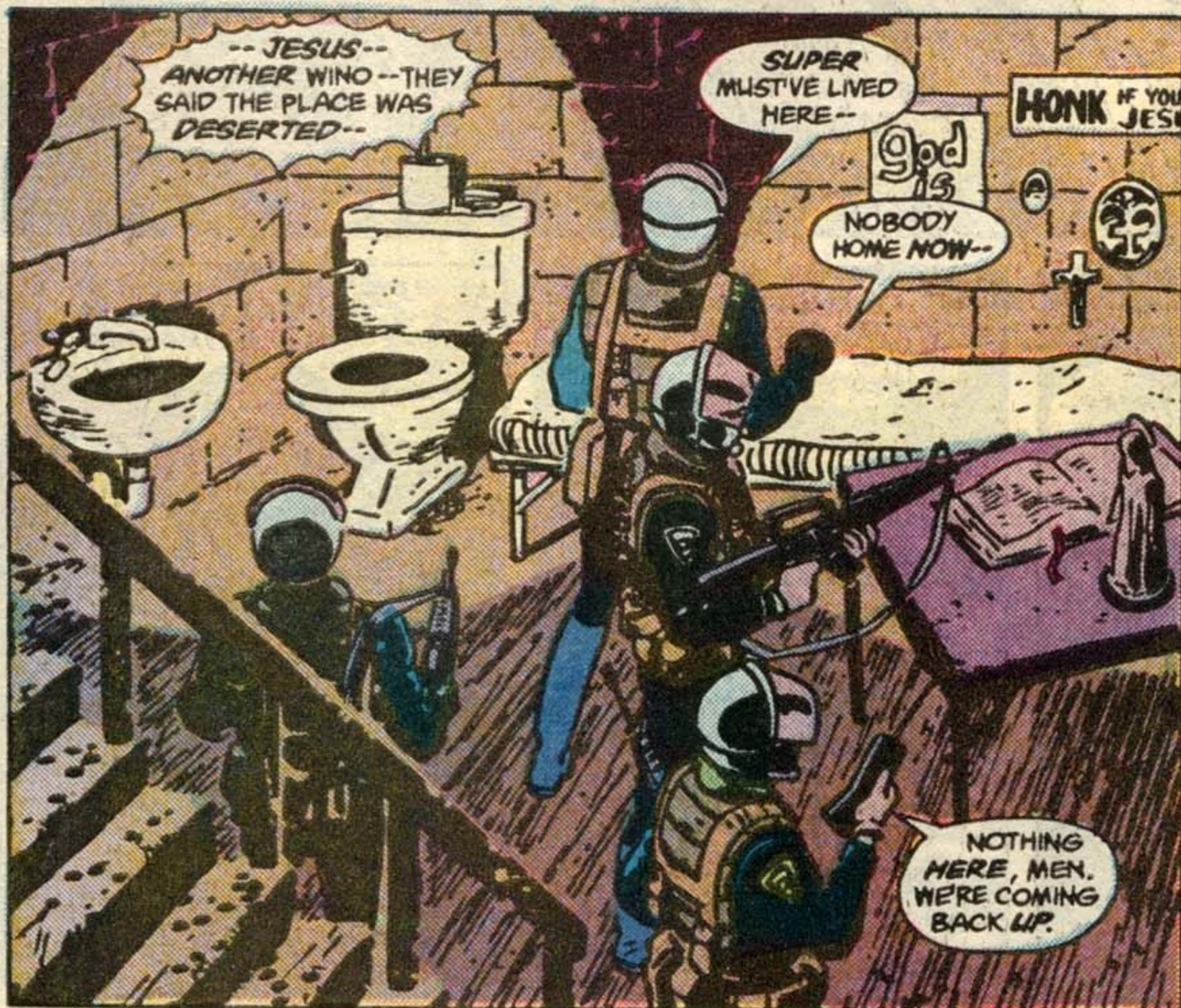


--NO-- IT'S JUST
A DOG--

STEADY BURST
IF YOU FIND HIM--NO
MATTER HOW DEAD
HE LOOKS--

--GO FOR THE
CHEST--WE'LL NEED
HIS FACE FOR
IDENTIFICATION--

--NO
TROUBLE
YET--



--JESUS--
ANOTHER WINO--THEY
SAID THE PLACE WAS
DESERTED--

SUPER
MUST'VE LIVED
HERE--

God
is
NOBODY
HOME NOW--

HONK IF YOU
JESUS

NOTHING
HERE, MEN.
WE'RE COMING
BACK UP.



THOOM

I LIKE
YOU RIGHT
WHERE YOU ARE,
BRANDEN.



HOLD YOUR FIRE. YOU'D ONLY KILL YOUR OWN MEN.

TOO MANY PEOPLE HAVE DIED ALREADY. HAVE THE OTHER SQUADS WITHDRAWN. I CAN'T GUARANTEE THEIR SAFETY.

SNFF NO USE-- SOMETHING'S ON TOP OF IT--

UNITS ONE AND TWO-- CONVERGE ON LOBBY-- HE'S HERE--



--SHOOT ON SIGHT--

FSSS

HERE, SIR-- A HOLE IN THE WALL-- MUST'VE BEEN A FIRE-PLACE HERE ONCE--



--MUST'VE KICKED THROUGH-- CLIMBED UP THE CHIMNEY--

--WHA--

GAS MASKS! FAST!

SSSS



--UNIT ONE-- DO YOU COPY?

I THINK BRANDEN NEEDS SOME HELP, LIEUTENANT.

WE CAN'T HELP, MERKEL. ORDERS. BREAKS MY HEART.

STAND BACK--

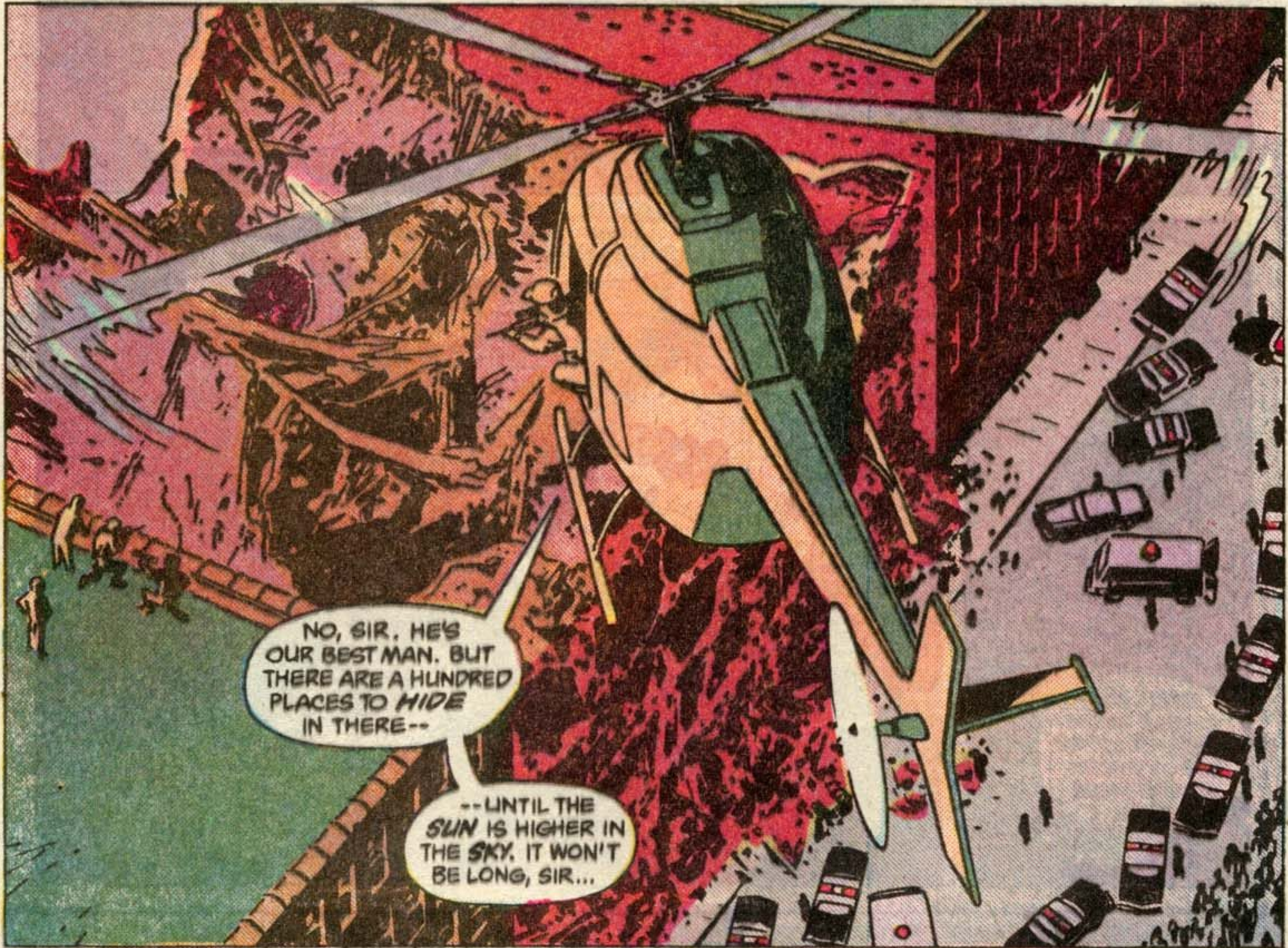


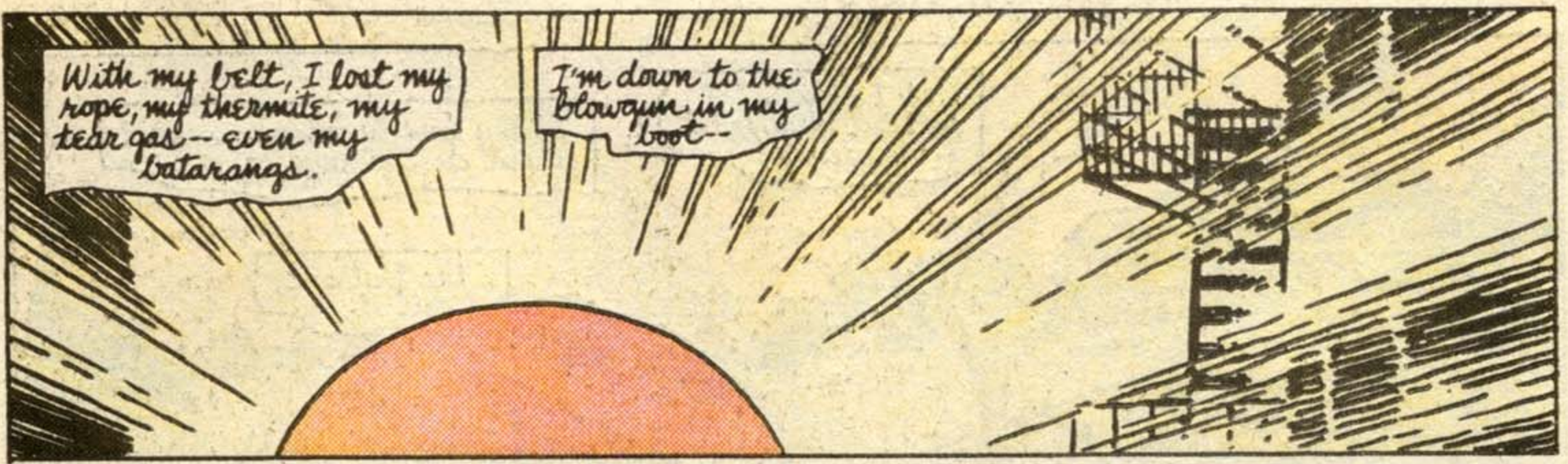
--STAND BACK-- LET US DO OUR JOB--

--BATMAN, SELINA-- SOMEBODY JUST SAID HE'S ALIVE--

--MAYBE WE'LL SEE HIM--

WE'LL SEE HIS CORPSE...





With my belt, I lost my rope, my thermite, my tear gas-- even my batarangs.

I'm down to the blowgun in my boot--



KREEEE

STEP IT UP--

CAREFUL-- STAIRS ARE GIVING--



WHAT THE HELL--

JUST A CAT, MAN--

KEEP AN EYE OUT--

IT'S A BAT WE'RE AFTER--

Knew he wouldn't stay quiet.

Siamese.



Down to the blowgun and its three darts--

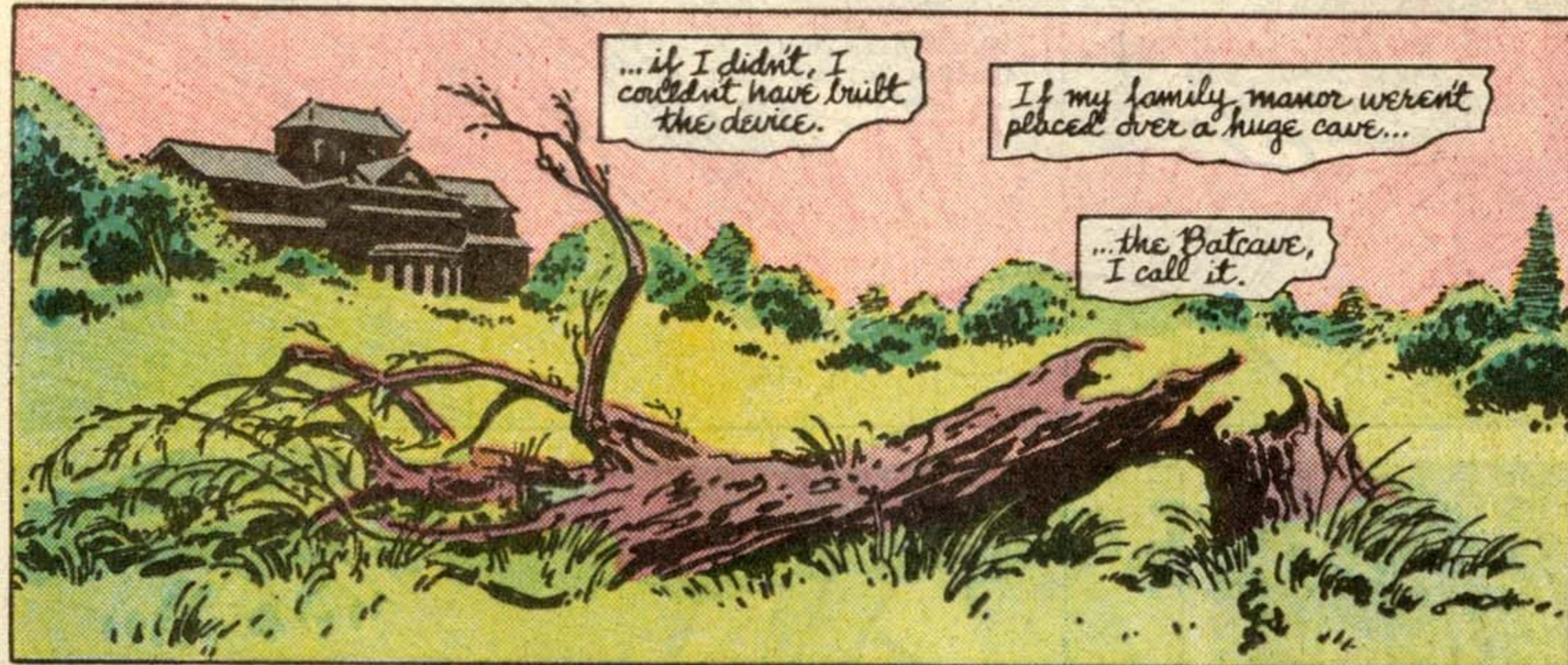
--and an unofficial invention of Wayne Electronics.

Haven't tested it for this great a distance. Or for use in daylight.



Too bad I can't afford to patent it. I'd make a fortune.

But then, I already have a fortune...



...if I didn't, I
couldn't have built
the device.

If my family manor weren't
placed over a huge cave...

...the Batcave,
I call it.



SKEE
SKEE

It's full
of bats.

Extraordinary
creatures, bats.
Nearly blind--



--they are sensitive to a
range of sound far beyond
our hearing!

Took me weeks to find an
ultrasonic tone that attracts
them.



All of them.

SKEE
SKEE
SKEE



Wayne Manor is miles
from Gotham. They'll
take a few minutes
to get here--

--should
things
go well.



Wait...
wait...

...let them waste
all the time
they want...



STEADY,
MAN--JUST
THAT CAT
AGAIN--

--GETTING ON
MY NERVES--



WHFF? WHOEVER
BATMAN IS-- HE'S
STRONGER THAN A...

QUIET--HE COULD BE
ANYWHERE...

SAID HE WAS IN
THE CHIMNEY--THERE--

HOLD IT,
YOU IDIOT--



DROP THAT BEAM--
THEY WEREN'T QUICK
ENOUGH--THEY'RE
USELESS--

-- WE'RE
LUCKY HE DIDN'T
KILL THEM--



-- NOW FAN
OUT--YOU'RE
LEAVING
YOURSELVES
WIDE OP

HHKKK

The slightest
dose of
Anaconda on
the darts--
enough to put
a man to
sleep--



-- for a day
or so--

-- twelve
men left--
two darts--

-- no
good--



-- one bullet -- will make
all the difference--

-- they've got
thousands--

SPAKK

BRAKABRAKABRAKABRAKABRAKABRA

--THERE--

--CAN'T
SEE HIM--
WHERE--

--MOVES
SO FAST--

--DARK--

--COULD BE
ANYWHERE--

REEOW

WHA--

--DAMN
THAT
CAT--

RAKABRAKABRAKABRAKABRAKA

--THERE--

--SO FAST--

WREEOOWWWW

WRE EEE

NGG

--TAGGED
HIM-- CLOSE
IN--

COMMISSIONER--
FOR GOD'S SAKE--
COME IN--

--THOSE IDIOTS ARE FIRING OUT
THE WINDOWS-- FOR GOD'S--

NGRAA

--MERKEL!--



GOT HIM--

--GET IN
CLOSE-- CUT
THAT BASTARD
IN HALF--

--GOT HIM, MAN,
WE'VE GOT HIM--

Groovy-- losing
too much blood--

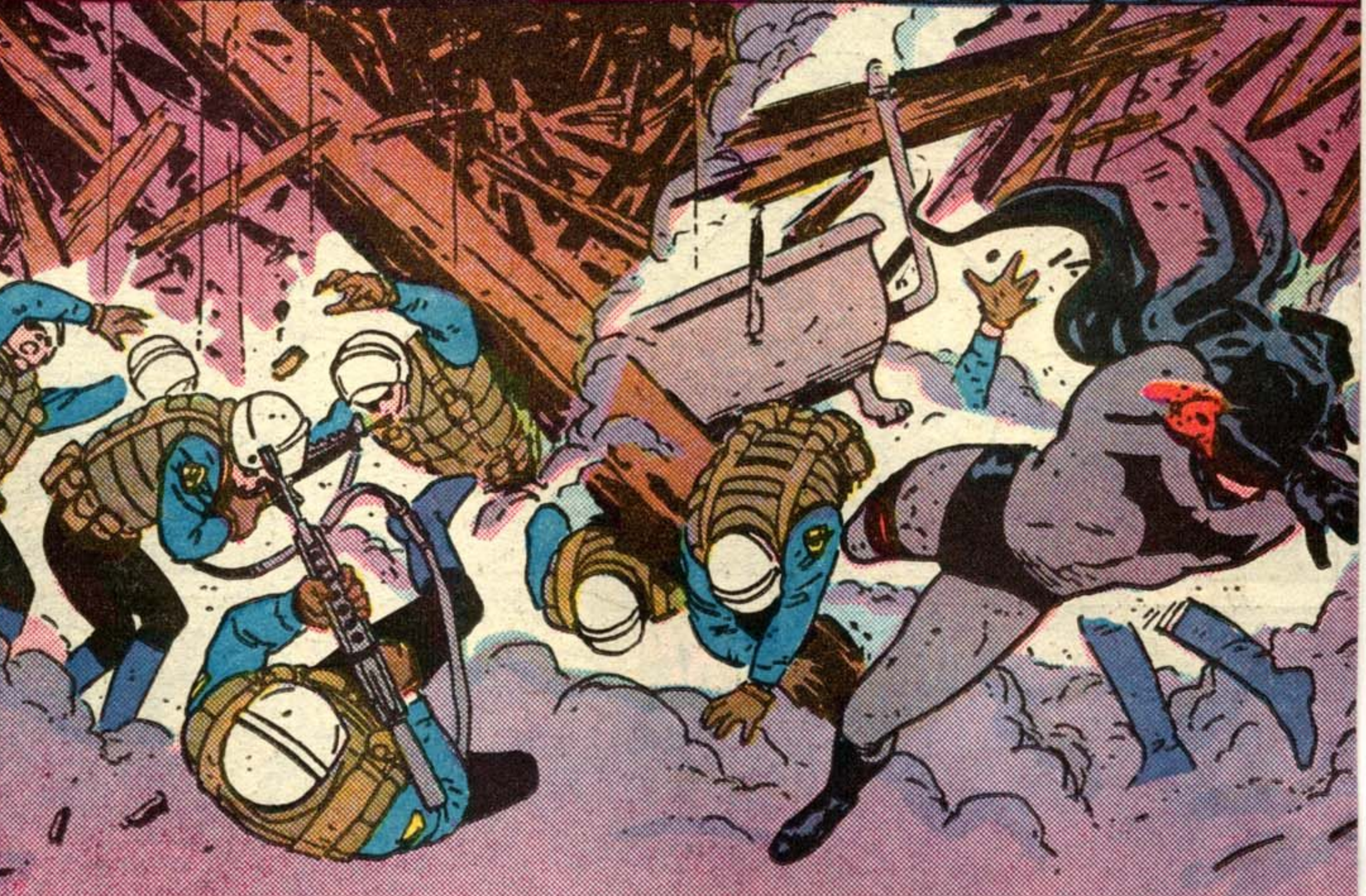
--had to--
put a bullet--
in my good
leg--
didn't
they--



--forget it--
ignore it--

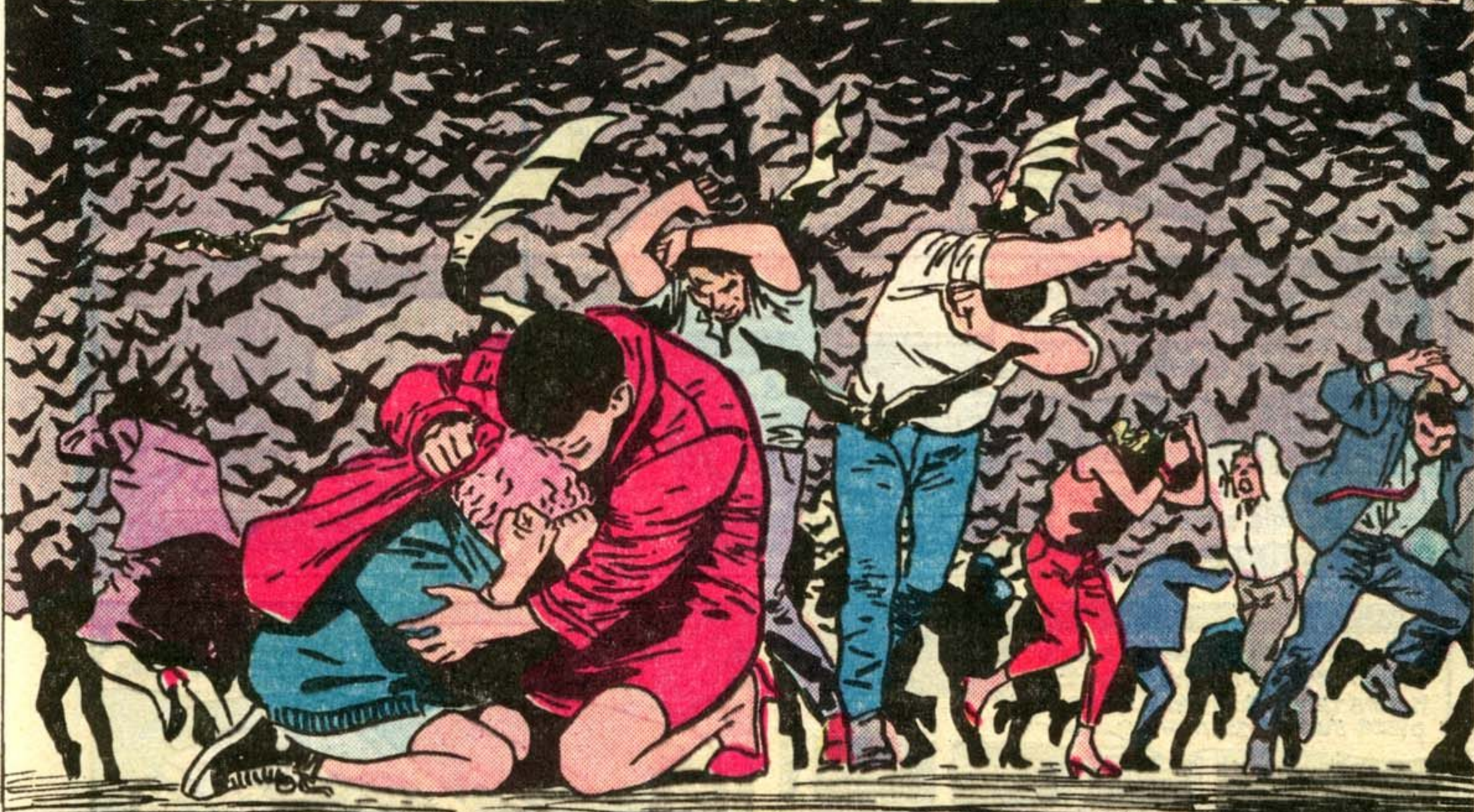
--put what's
left into it--

KKRAAAKKK



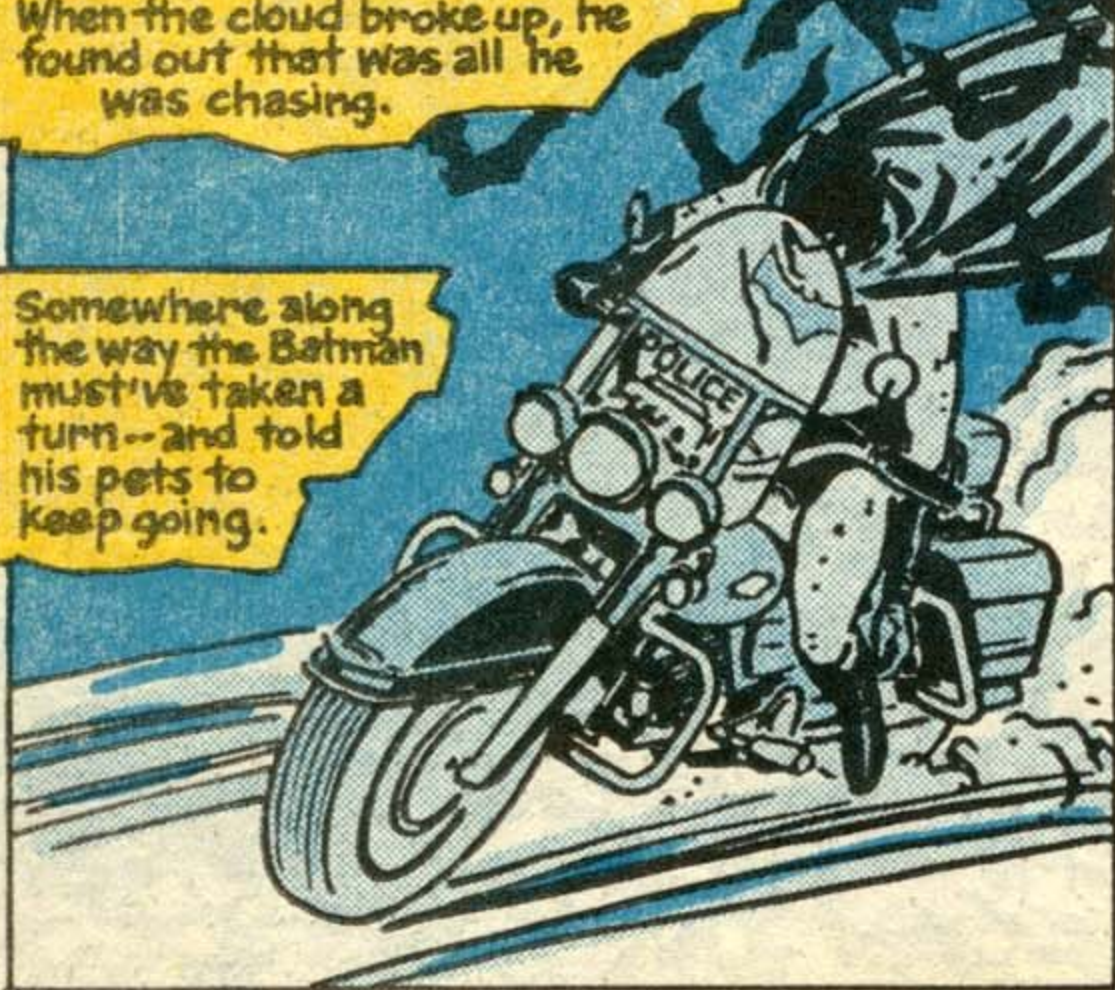
YOU'RE
THE ONE--





Commissioner Loeb chased a cloud of bats for twelve blocks. When the cloud broke up, he found out that was all he was chasing.

Somewhere along the way the Batman must've taken a turn--and told his pets to keep going.



Always eager to please the Commissioner, Detective Swanson pursued the bats to the bitter end...



...and, speaking of bitter ends...

...every member of Branden's team, every cop, and everybody in the crowd were vaccinated against rabies for their bat bites.

Never have so many had so much trouble sitting down.



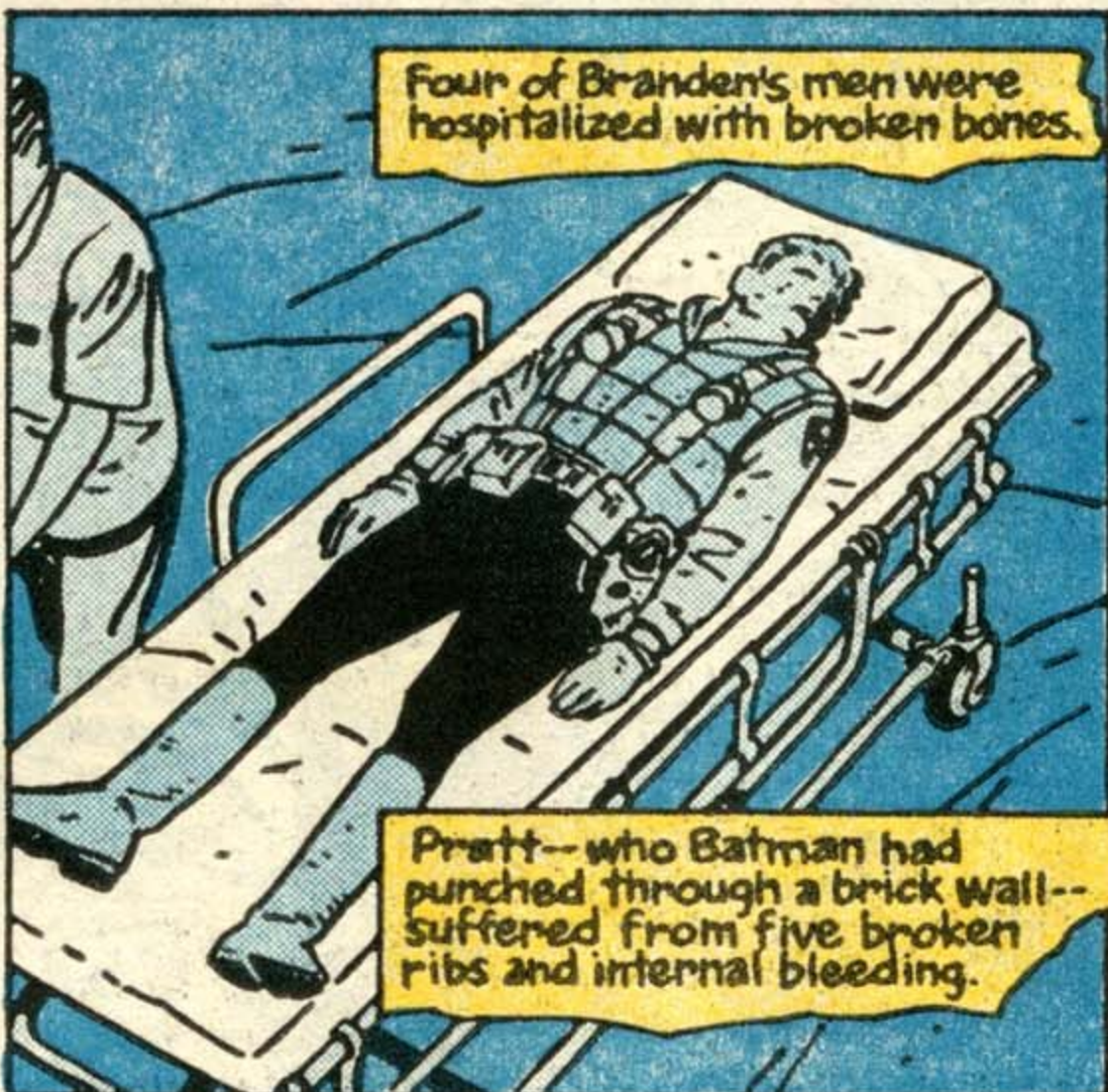
The owner of a nearby men's store opened up his shop, four hours later, to find a three-piece suit missing--

--and payment for it sitting on his cash register.



Four of Branden's men were hospitalized with broken bones.

Prett-- who Batman had punched through a brick wall-- suffered from five broken ribs and internal bleeding.



The dead winos had no relatives to complain about their firebombing.

Everyone who would've ordered Branden or Loeb up on charges remains unavailable to me by appointment or phone...



June 9

...as has my prime suspect in this case-- Bruce Wayne, the richest man in Gotham City.

Sgt. Essen informed me that Wayne's parents were murdered by a mugger when he was six years old. That's enough motive, I suppose, to make a man dress like Dracula and assault criminals...

...and save cats...

...Wayne's butler informed me that his boss has been skiing in Switzerland for six weeks.

I squeezed permission for an international call from Captain Pierce...

...I've had easier root canals--you'd think Pierce was paying for the call out of his own pocket...

...and I spoke to somebody in Switzerland who said he was Bruce Wayne--

--then told me he'd taken a nasty spill on the slopes--broken both legs and one arm--

--but assured me he'd be back in the country in a month. Said he'd be happy to talk with me. Laughed when I mentioned Batman.

Asked me for his autograph.

WAYNE COULD AFFORD AN IMPERSONATOR--AND CASTS ON HIS ARM AND LEGS WOULD COVER BULLET WOUNDS--EXACTLY WHERE BATMAN RECEIVED THEM...

...I'M SORRY, ESSEN. DID YOU SAY SOMETHING?

WORLD'S GREATEST DAD

YES, SIR.
IT'S QUITTING
TIME.

SHARE
A CAB?

Think of her
as a cop.

Think of her
as a cop.

June 15

I leave the casts and
the sleeping alibis
back at the lodge.

They were so eager to support
my story with Lieutenant
Gordon-- all I had to say was
that a woman was involved--

--one of them even pretended
to be me, just for laughs,
before I arrived...

...the air is cold and
sharp and hard to
breathe-- it's good to
be alive--

--I don't deserve
to be alive.

This isn't a game. I can't
afford mistakes.

--but that won't
be enough.

Too many people
want me dead.

I can't do
it alone.

I need an ally--an
inside man.

I need Jim Gordon.

On my side.

June 17



SELINA--
YOU PUNCHED
STAN--

WE'RE CHANGING OUR
LINE OF WORK, HOLLY.

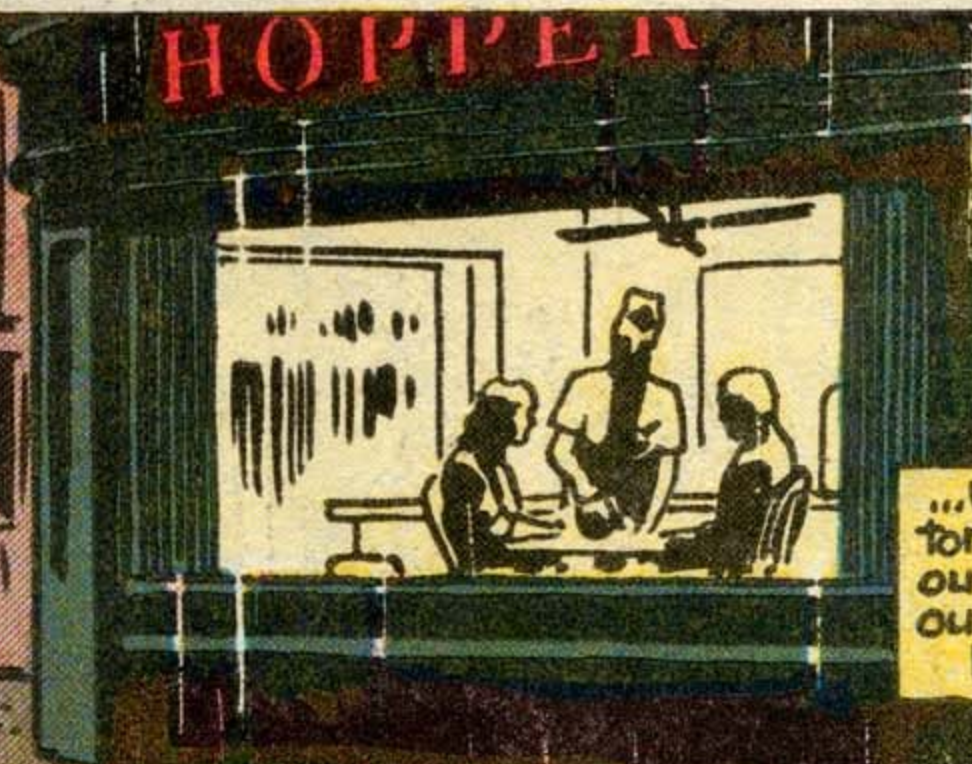
I GOT
AN IDEA.

July 5

It's getting to be a habit
for Essen and I to have a
cup of coffee at the local
diner before calling it
a night.

Actually, I'm the only one
who has coffee--she goes
for herb tea--she'd
qualify as a health nut if
she didn't smoke...

HOPPER



...we stay longer,
tonight, hoping to wait
out the rain. We run
out of shop talk, but
keep going...

...turns out her first name is Sarah and
her family is from Germany, a generation
back. She's got a thing about the bad rap
that Germans generally get.



She got into law enforcement after
being told she was too masculine
for about six other careers.

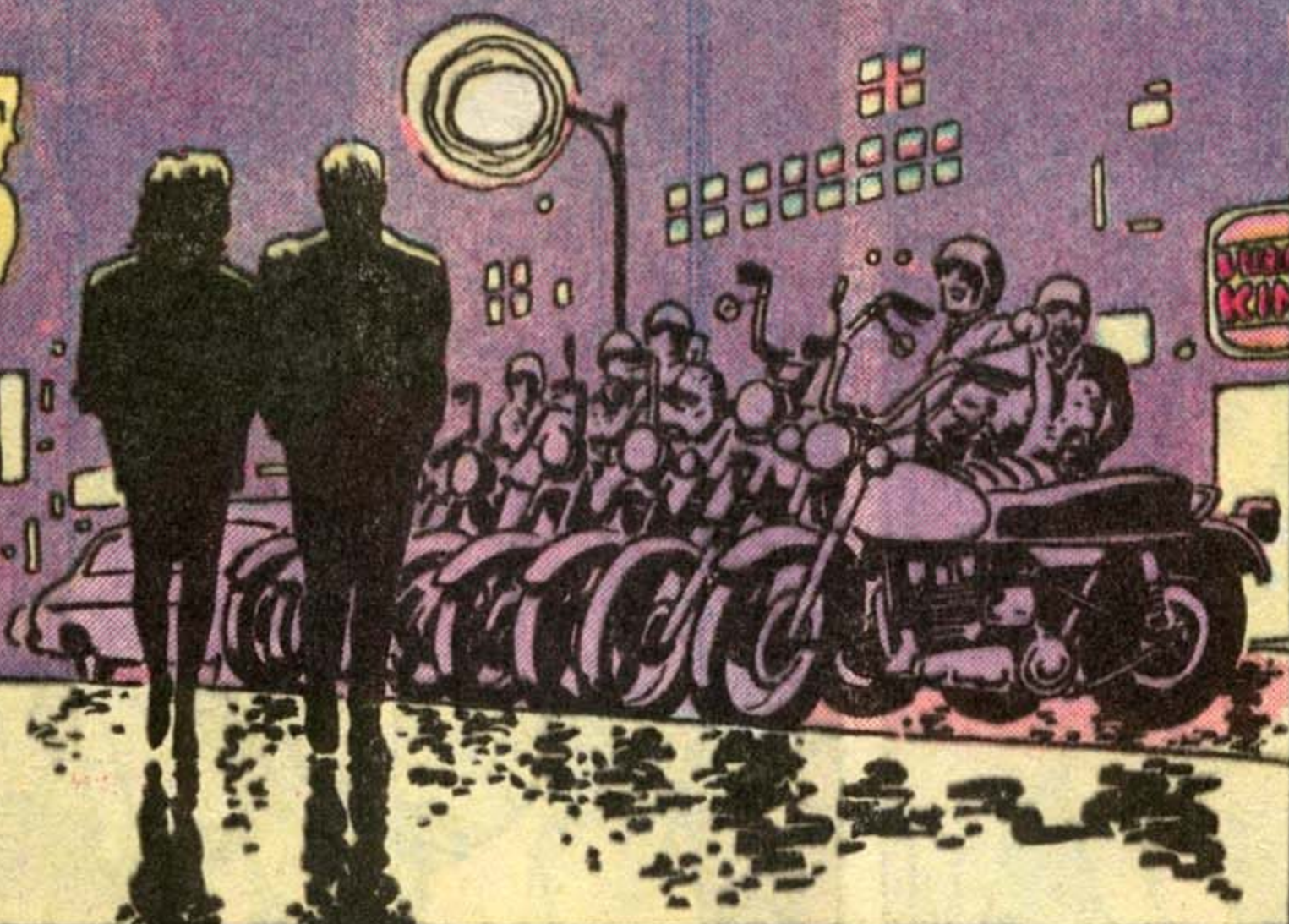
Whoever told her she was masculine
must've been blind, deaf, and dead.



The rain's eased up and I'm an hour late and feeling terrible about having forgotten to call Barbara when we decide to risk it and look for a cab.

A group of bikers notice Essent's legs and make the usual remarks.

We ignore them and keep walking.



Turns out she's from Chicago, some years back. Small world.

Even went to the same place for ribs. I'm sure I would've noticed her...



...though, come to think of it, she was probably in high school then...

...Gotham weather. Just when the rain seems to be clearing up, lightning flashes--

--and we learn how Noah felt. Not having an ark, we settle for a doorway.



A cab comes. She takes it. We don't say good night.

August 7

I DON'T KNOW, SELINA-- I MEAN, YOU SPENT ALL OUR MONEY ON THAT COSTUME--

IT'S MONEY, HOLLY. BE A KICK. JUST WATCH.

I MEAN, IT'S PRETTY QUEER--

I MEAN--

SELINA--

I hate this city.

I hate myself and the night and everything it brings.

Mostly, I hate it when she cries...

...another fight. We fight so much, Barbara and I. She tells me I'm away too much and just when I should apologize, I snap at her... I freeze up inside...

...tonight, she called the office and I wasn't there-- I was out having coffee with Sarah--

-- Sarah-- my God, I'm calling her Sarah now... it's all wrong...

...and Barbara's right, as always...

...and right now I should be
talking to her-- begging her
to forgive me for--

--for the baby in her stomach
and the way that I'm thinking
about Essen--that's right--call
her Essen--forget how she felt--
how her body and her lips felt--

--Barbara-- I should talk to her.
I shouldn't be thinking -- not
about Sgt. Essen--

--and not about Batman.

He's a criminal. I'm a cop.
It's that simple. But--



--but I'm a cop in a city where
the mayor and the commissioner
of police use cops as hired
killers...

...he saved that old woman.

He saved that cat.

He even paid for that suit.

The hunk of metal in my hands
is heavier than ever...



BAT-SIGNALS

L-2640

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666 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10103

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Dear Max and Denny,

Very good set. I sure would like to see more of your work (Mr. Collins... Oh, Denny, I'm not saying anything bad about you) in BATMAN. Great intro for the Miller story.

Would it really be wrong for someone to dress up like a hero figure and imitate him/her? I'm not saying that they would go around breaking the law, but merely parade around acting and dressing like someone else. It's not like Wayne has a copyright on Batman; if he did, he would lose his alter ego. Just something to ponder on...

Me

631 Stella Dr.

Decatur, IL 62526

P.S. (Ohhh Noooooooooooo! Vicky Vale????!!!! Not that superficial slime-scum again. How can Bruce like her?! Please nooo moooooore!!!)

The problem with dressing up like a hero figure, in this case Batman, is that persons without that hero's powers or training leave themselves vulnerable to attacks by villains of that hero. Batman's never going to get anywhere fighting crime if he's constantly coming to the rescue of costumed admirers. Who's responsibility is it if the fan dressing up like the hero is hurt by the hero's enemies? The hero's, for being the inspiration, or the fan, for usurping the hero's identity?

Dear DCers,

There are a lot of changes going on with Batman. I would like to add my 2¢ worth. The few suggestions that I have are, I believe, reasonable under the circumstances surrounding Batman.

1) Have Batman reveal his secret identity to Commissioner Gordon. It is inconceivable that a great cop like Gordon would not have deduced Batman's ID by now. It could make both men's jobs somewhat easier.

2) Return the style of uniform that does not have that awful yellow oval. It stinks!

3) Have Batman become less of a "special police deputy" and more of a man who is operating outside of the good graces of the law (although Gordon would be unofficially helping and asking for the help of the Batman. This could make it interesting if some other law enforcement officer learns of Gordon's relationship with Batman).

4) Kill Harvey Bullock. In my humble opinion, he is a jerk and destructs and detracts from the story.

A couple of questions:

Will there be a new Huntress? I heard there would be (one that wouldn't have any ties to Earth-2), but I haven't heard anything more definite lately. Will Julia Pennyworth be a candidate for the new Huntress?

What happened to Batman's relationship with the JLA? I haven't seen him in the book lately. (Of course, now that the JLA is going through changes, this question may be moot.) Will Batman have anything to do with the "new JLA"? (It would seem to me that if he's going to fit into a group at all, it would be this "new JLA" that is supposed to have a more international flavor, since he believes in justice over the letter of the law.)

Here's hoping that Batman gets even better in 1987!

Randy Freeman

P.O. Box 4086

Riverside, CA 91514-4086

Answers:

There are plans for a new Huntress, one who will probably not have ties to the Batman. No, she's not Julia Pennyworth.

Batman's right in the thick of things with the new JL (no A), and ALSO the Outsiders, so he's a very busy boy. For details, check out copies of THE JUSTICE LEAGUE (no America...) or THE OUTSIDERS. (But you're all such devout Batman fans, you knew that and were reading both books already, right? Good.)

Dear Bat-Men,

I felt a need, a compulsion to drop you a note about "One Batman Too Many." This was a brilliant effort by both Collins and Cowan and was a fine example of great teamwork. The writing and the art meshed perfectly together; I could feel the spirit, the courage and the need that Tommy Carma and Bruce Wayne feel about the Batman.

This was a scary story as Carma's only way to cling to his Batman identity was to steal a costume and the Batmobile, while Bruce Wayne could be stark naked and stripped of all his crime-fighting equipment and still be the true Batman. I hope that we'll see more stories by the Collins/Cowan team; I hate to think that I'll never see such a fine effort again. Even though I feel for Carma, I hope that he never escapes to menace Batman again. I would, however, like to see Bruce Wayne visit him every so often, helping him to

reaffirm his true identity, perhaps giving Wayne the satisfaction of being able to reform and rehabilitate one of his foes, giving him that spark of happiness that he so desperately needs.

Fred deBoom

9372 Tidewater Circle

Huntington Beach, CA 92646

You'll obviously be seeing Max's work again soon, Fred, immediately after BATMAN: YEAR ONE is completed, as Max begins his run as writer of BATMAN. For more of Denys' work, take a look at THE QUESTION, which has some incredible art by Denys Cowan and Rick Magyar, along with words by some guy named O'Neil. (Eh? What's that?) Oh, excuse me: along with AMAZINGLY STUPENDOUS PROSE BY THE EVER-TALENTED GENIUS, DENNIS O'NEIL!!! (Will you let my arm go now, Den?) THE QUESTION is aimed at more mature readers, so it might not interest all of you who read BATMAN, but if you think it's up your alley (no, not Crime Alley, another one), take a look.

Dear Denny,

I enjoyed BATMAN #402. Obviously Max Collins is in touch with the Batman and is also in touch with the Batman which DC wishes to emphasize in the immediate future.

I disagree entirely, however, with Bruce Wayne's categorizing of killings and the rationalizations to which he subscribes. First, killing is killing, pure and simple. It is a mere act which, standing alone, has no moral value at all. Only when placed into a context does moral value attach. In a time of war, one who kills is a hero; at other times, he may be the most heinous of villains.

Bruce Wayne seizes upon this use of context as a source of morality and, in my opinion, he deludes himself. Admitting to being a killer himself, Bruce claims he has done so only in self-defense; therefore his killings are—to him—excusable. Tommy Carma, on the other hand, is a "murderer," referred to as "lice who snuff(s) out human life like it's worth nothing at all."

Sorry, Bruce, but when it comes to killing, Tommy Carma is no better or worse than you. As far as the self-defense bit goes, I posit the following: in the sense that Carma, like you, is a citizen of Gotham—a synergistic community which is derived from the sum of its parts, he is as much a part of Gotham as Gotham is of him and vice versa. Consequently, by seeking out and eliminating

those cancerous elements which threaten to destroy Gotham, is not Carma killing in self-defense? He kills to protect Gotham, its citizenry, himself.

Of course, you could argue that society cannot function if masked vigilantes are permitted to roam the darkened streets and, acting as police, judge, jury and executioner, destroy criminals as they (the vigilantes) see fit. That is a point well taken, but hardly well offered in defense of the Dark Knight. Bruce may not intend, in a direct sense, to go out and kill, but by seeking out evil-doers and thrusting himself into the fray, he often creates the situation which forces him to kill in "self-defense."

Tangentially, though we could chalk this up to typical mass media hype and misrepresentation, the comparison between Carma's Batman and Bernard Goetz is misplaced. Though the facts have yet to be determined by a jury, the story as I understand it is that Goetz was minding his own business on a subway when he was accosted by youths. In true self-defense, he retaliated with a handgun. Assuming this story to be true, Goetz is hardly similar to a man who went out specifically to find trouble, and then deal death to its perpetrators.

There is a whole lot in this story; I hope that is what you intended. Moral and ethical dilemmas abound in it. I also hope that you receive letters more eloquent than mine which can spark what could be a lively debate on the Batman, his mind and his methods.

Mic McConnell
1910 Le Suer Rd.
Richmond, VA 23229

Denny,

I still have no idea whether or not Batman will have a regular artist/writer team after the Miller/Mazzucchelli stories have been completed, but maybe having a revolving series of collaborators is the way to go. The Batman seems to be everyone's favorite character, and with people like Harlan Ellison and Max Allan Collins itching to give their own interpretation of the human and mythical aspects of the Batman, this book will never fall into a rut. The exploration of vigilantism in BATMAN #402, while not as exciting as the DARK KNIGHT stories, was more intellectually stimulating than Frank Miller's one-sided polemics. The villain in this story may have been a nut, but he was not a one-dimensional buffoon like most of Batman's adversaries in DARK KNIGHT, and the internal conflicts Batman confronts in this story are not easily dismissed. I enjoy fun stories like the Magpie adventure last issue, but I want to encourage you to do more stories that delve into Batman's nature. Not only is Batman a popular character, he is an increasingly relevant one. Here in California, there is a campaign to unseat three state supreme court justices, primarily because they do not support the death penalty. This effort is getting a lot of support, mostly, I suspect, from people like Tommy Carma's partner at the warehouse, the guy with the "snuff 'em"

attitude. If the arguments being put forward in this political campaign had as much depth as this comic book story, it might be possible for me to take politics more seriously. As it is, maybe comic books will start being taken more seriously, at least as long as they're as mature and provocative as BATMAN #402.

John Egan
1557 Newlands Ave.
Burlingame, CA 94010

Dear Denny,

With no regular creative team set after issue #407, I would hope you can make the right decision as to whom you want to write and draw BATMAN every month. You realize, of course, that about the only logical choice is Frank Miller. With Frank at the helm of Batman, your sales will skyrocket! Frank draws Batman better than anyone I've ever seen (David Mazzucchelli's Batman looks *real* good, though). Frank is one of the best writers, ever, in comics also. Denny, please, I beg you...! Get Miller to do Batman for a long time! If Frank doesn't want to draw it (I hope not!), please get David Mazzucchelli to do the art.

Is it possible to get Barry Windsor-Smith and Arthur Adams to do a fill-in issue or two?

Thank you very much for listening to my comments.

Brian Stillman
Box 27
Ukiah, OR 97880

We do have a regular creative team set, Brian, as announced last issue: Max Allan Collins and Chris Warner. Having Frank stay would also be great, but he's going to take his talents another way for now.

Hi, Guys!

I've been struggling the last few days to try to find specific reasons that I enjoyed BATMAN #402 so much. The story was good and the characterization of Batman was excellent. Max gave us a look into the mind of the Batman. Stories that do this are the best Batman stories. What drives Batman's hatred of crime and love of justice so many years after his parents' deaths is much more interesting than Bruce's romances, Catwoman, Robin, etc. I would be happy just to have stories with Batman, Commissioner Gordon and Alfred, but I suspect most of your other readers wouldn't.

I would like to suggest that next year you try reviving the tradition of a Batman Christmas story. Since Max Collins did such a good job on issue #402, I would like to be the first to suggest that Max write the story.

Michael Marz
313 N. Third Ave. W #1
Duluth, MN 55806

Max? How about a Christmas story for Michael? Well, it's time to leave once again; so long for now, and don't forget to use the Yellow Pages ... see ya.

—Barbara

FROM THE DEN

*Of all the sad words of tongue or pen
The saddest are these: It might have
been.*

How true.

This was to be the column in which I told you all about the plans Max Collins and Chris Warner have for the Batman—and some plans they are.

But if you look elsewhere in this letters page, you'll see a huge block of space full of tiny print ostensibly declaring the circulation truths of this magazine. The law requires us to print this stuff once a year.

Leaving us very little room for anything else.

Feh.

Can't promise I'll tell you what Max and Chris have in mind next time, either. Because there won't be a letters page in BATMAN #407. There will be, we're pretty sure, something you'll like a lot more.

I'll get back to you in two months, okay?

DENNY

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION (Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685)

- 1A. Title of Publication: BATMAN
- 1B. Publication No.: 045-340
2. Date of Filing: October 1, 1986
3. Frequency of Issue: Monthly
- 3A. No. of Issues Published Annually: 12
- 3B. Annual Subscription Price: \$9.00
4. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication: 666 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10103
5. Complete Mailing Address of the Headquarters of General Business Offices of the Publisher: 666 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10103
6. Full Names and Complete Mailing Address of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor: Publisher: DC Comics Inc., 666 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10103; Editor: Denny O'Neil, 666 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10103; Managing Editor: None
7. Owner: DC COMICS INC., 666 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10103, a wholly owned by Warner Communications Inc., 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019, a publicly held company.
8. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages or Other Securities: None
9. For Completion by Nonprofit Organizations Authorized to Mail at Special Rates: Not Applicable
10. Extent and Nature of Circulation:
 - 10A. Total No. Copies (Net Press Run): Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 187,309. Actual no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 211,744.
 - 10B. Paid and/or Requested Circulation: 1. Sales through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors and Counter Sales: Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 87,637. Actual no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 118,650.
 2. Mail Subscription (Paid and/or Requested): Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 2,110. Actual no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 2,005.
 - 10C. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 10B1 and 10B2): Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 89,747. Actual no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 120,655.
 - 10D. Free Distribution by Mail, Carrier or Other Means, Samples, Complimentary, and Other Free Copies: Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 163. Actual no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 164.
 - 10E. Total Distribution (Sum of C and D): Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 89,910. Actual no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 120,819.
 - 10F. Copies Not Distributed: 1. Office Use, Left Over, Unaccounted, Spoiled After Printing: Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 2,941. Actual no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 875.
 2. Return From News Agents: Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 94,458. Actual no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 90,050.
 - 10G. Total (Sum of E, F1 and 2 - should equal net press run shown in A): Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 187,309. Actual no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 211,744.
11. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete. Paul Levitz, Exec.-Vice President-Operations